

COUNTRY <u>Germany (Soviet Zone)</u>		REPORT	
TOPIC <u>Soviet Troops in Oranienburg</u>		50X1-HUM	
EVALUATION <u></u>	PLACE OBTAINED <u></u>	50X1-HUM	
DATE OF CONTENT <u></u>			
DATE OBTAINED <u></u>		DATE PREPARED <u>9 May 1952</u>	
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1. On 3 April, the restricted Weisse Stadt area in Oranienburg (N 53/E 77), situated on the west side of Berlinerstrasse, quartered about 200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and motor transport insignia. Trucks each towing a 76.2-mm field gun, moved out of the restricted area on 31 March. They proceeded toward the entrance of the airfield where the artillery pieces were unlimbered and placed into firing position within 5 minutes. The trucks returned to the Weisse Stadt after 10 minutes.

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April, about 80 unarmed soldiers drilled in the yard of the settlement. A building on the south side of the billeting area was guarded by an air force soldier.

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2. On 27 March, the castle on August-Bebelplatz quartered about 250 to 300 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia, and blue-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Troops were engaged in record practice with rifles and formation drill in the area west of the castle.

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3. On 27 March, numerous motor vehicles were unloaded at the Oranienburg freight station. The two last vehicles were prime movers each towing a 100-mm AT gun. The vehicles drove to the Weisse Stadt. T-34 tanks were loaded at the freight station on 3 April. (2)

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4. On 28 March, the garages and gun sheds of the 100-mm AT artillery regiment and the 76.2-mm AT artillery regiment Knochkov were occupied to capacity. Fourteen trucks each towing a 76.2-mm gun were in the parking lot of the 76.2-mm regiment Svobogernik and 10 trucks, each towing a 76.2-mm gun, were in the parking lot of Regiment Knochkov. About 16 soldiers mounted each vehicle at about 10:30 a.m. and drove toward an undetermined destination. Officers were on some of the trucks. After the departure of this unit, the garages and gun sheds were still fully occupied. The daily routine of the AT artillery regiments provided for physical exercise until about 9 a.m., breakfast, and rifle drill, and artillery firing

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practice with practice ammunition by the 100-mm AT artillery regiment.

on 3 April. On 28 March, [redacted] in the Weisse Stadt

100-mm AT guns were towed by a small caterpillar tractor.

the 100-mm AT artillery regiment was equipped with 24 large prime movers

and 4 small, [redacted] caterpillar tractors. (1)

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5. On 23 March, a column of 4 small caterpillar tractors, towing 100-mm AT guns, and 4 trucks towing 76.2-mm guns moved from the Weisse Stadt to Berlinerstrasse toward Dorfsdorferwald, and returned to the Weisse Stadt via the same route about 6 hours later. [redacted] the AT artillery regiment 50X1-HUM in the Weisse Stadt settlement were scheduled to move into the summer camp on 1 May. (1)

6. On 25 March, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] and 1 SU-26 gun practiced cross-country driving at the tank training site of the SS Kaserne on Bornauer Allee, Sachsenhausen. T-34/85 tank [redacted] and SU-26 gun [redacted] drove to the site on 26 March. SU-26 guns [redacted] practiced there on 27 March. On the same day, T-34/85 tank [redacted] and truck [redacted] were seen near the Dicko Villa in the billeting area of the SS Kaserne. Soldiers removed equipment from the truck to clean the tank. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

7. [redacted] field exercises of tank units, which also involved tank units from Oranienburg, were held in the Burgstargard (K 54/U 65) area in the middle of March. (4) [redacted] the tanks returned to Oranienburg at night and that the detrainning and entraining was handled in Locwenberg and Brance as Oranienburg had no end ramp. [redacted] 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

8. On 24 March, [redacted] a large settlement along Berlinerstrasse at the southern entrance to Oranienburg was occupied by a unit of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Two artillery pieces, and 40 soldiers at small arms drill were noticed. [redacted] (1)

9. Training activity in the SS Kaserne Sachsenhausen and the Panzerschule was considerably intensified after the beginning of March. Troops practiced firing with live ammunition from machine guns mounted on sidecar motorcycles while driving past the target range. Field exercises involving tanks and artillery pieces were conducted day and night. [redacted] the unit commanded by Colonel Skorop 50X1-HUM (fnu) would soon move to Camp Zohdenick at the Templin troop training grounds. The units new permanent quarters were in Bernau (K 53/E 96). (C-4) T-34 tanks [redacted] T-34/85 tank [redacted] and armored scout car [redacted] and trucks [redacted] were identified in the SS Kaserne. 50X1-HUM

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10. On 27 March, about 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia practiced with new model 1942 ZIS-3 76.2-mm guns between Settlement Oranienburg-Sued and the Oranienburg-Nauen railroad line, about 300 meters west of Highway 96. Trucks [redacted] were identified with the troops. Another unit practiced with new guns of the same model on the west bank of the Oranienburg Canal.

[redacted] Several groups of soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets dismantled telephone lines in the training area directly along the Oranienburg-Logebruch road. [redacted]

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Comments.

- (1) The report confirms that the restricted Weiss Stadt area is occupied by the unidentified AT artillery brigade of the Second Gds Pez Army and one heavy and two medium AT artillery regiments. The commanding officers of the latter regiments are Lieutenant Colonel Knochkov (fnu) and Svoborovnik (fnu). It is of interest that, according to the present report, the garages and gun sheds were still occupied to capacity after Unit Svoborovnik with 21 x 76.2-mm guns had left. Further information is needed to determine whether the brigade was allotted additional equipment, which is a possibility. The small caterpillar tractors, reported in paragraph 5, were possibly a new-type tractor tested by the unit.
- (2) the train, which carried a 100-mm AT artillery unit of the unidentified AT artillery brigade of the Second Gds Pez Army and was unloaded in Granienburg, came from Juckerlog.
- (3) Colonel Skoropa (fnu) reported in paragraph 2 is administrative officer or commanding officer of a unit of the 25th Tank Div. The statement that the unit is to be permanently stationed in Bernau is given no credence.
- (4) Presumably the same area where components of the Third Shock Army conducted field exercises in the middle of February 1952.

(5)

(6)

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